

Wash. D. C. June 7 '43

GASOLINE

As of tonight the prospect is that gasoline will be rationed all over the country. A spokesman for the Petroleum Administration said as much to a special committee of the House of Representatives. In fact, that administration is now working out a plan to forbid pleasure driving in all states.

The spokesman for Secretary Ickes assured the Congressman that ^{the} Petroleum Administration is positively not discriminating against the twelve northeastern states. ^{that} On the contrary, the Office of Secretary Ickes is doing its utmost and straining all available transportation facilities to bring more petroleum products into the northeast.

A spokesman for the OPA told the congressmen that petroleum stocks in the east have been seriously reduced by the needs of farmers and truckers. ^{TP} There are four states in the east where pleasure driving is not forbidden---North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. ^{But that} Even there the reserve supply of gasoline has been shrinking at the rate of six thousand barrels a day. So says the OPA.

FOOD CONFERENCE

That ^a international food conference which ^{just} ended at Hot Springs Virginia, last week, dealt with practically every domain of human life. It went into such wide-spread matters as the stabilizing of international exchange, international investment, trade barriers, standards of living. All this was made more than ever clear by the speech that President Roosevelt made to the delegates ^{here in Washington} at the White House late this afternoon.

^{The President}
He said the peoples of the world cannot be fed, as human beings should be fed, without forward action in other fields besides food. More food cannot be produced unless industrial production is increased, also the purchasing power of all peoples. Standards of living must be improved by the better use of natural and human resources. Many of those questions lie outside the scope of the work of the food conferences, ^{the President} ~~Mr. Roosevelt~~ said, but it is none the less essential that those problems be solved.

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inference at least, as a broad outline of his foreign policy.

A sound agricultural program for the entire world would depend upon political security for the entire world. Then he referred to the Atlantic Charter, using the words "freedom from want and freedom from fear go hand in hand."

The President described the conference as epoch-making and said he used the word advisedly because it was the first conference of the United Nations. He thinks it succeeded even beyond his hopes. ~~(And he added that the Government of the United States is honored because the conference asked that the seat of its interim commission be in Washington.)~~

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2-Food Conference

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3-Food conference

~~he accepts this declaration.~~

The ultimate objective of the United Nations, he continued, is to build a world in which every human being can live out his life in peace, work productively, think and worship freely, and die secure, knowing that his children and grand children will have the same opportunities. Throughout history, he added, there has been no more worthwhile, and no more inspiring challenge. ~~And in conclusion he said "that challenge will be met."~~

ARGENTINA

~~It would be mighty interesting to have the real
lowdown on what is happening in Buenos Aires. But of one thing~~

~~The latest~~
~~we can be certain: The quick and practically bloodless~~

~~in So. America turns out to be
revolution is no great democratic uprising of the Argentinian~~

people. ~~It is~~ a change of government at the top; and the people

have ^{ing} nothing whatever to say about it. They may be glad on

the optimistic ground that any change from the government of

ex-president Ramon Castillo is for the general benefit. A

cynical commentator might add that ^{perhaps it's a change for the} ~~it is for the general~~

^{of the generals,} benefit, since nearly all the new ministers of the Argentinian

state are neither generals or admirals, even the ministers of

finance and agriculture. The cabinet does include a couple of

mere colonels, ^{That concession to} ~~may be for the sake of~~ democracy.

The strong hand of an iron censorship is over all news coming out of Buenos Aires. *And what news* ~~The latest statement~~ we have comes out of Montevideo, capital of Uruguay. *The word is that* The Argentinians ~~tonight~~ ^{now} have their second new chief of state within seventy-two hours. Last week we heard that General Arturo Rawson had been able to overthrow General Castillo because Castillo had fallen out with General Pedro Ramirez, his minister of war. *And tonight the* ~~The present~~ head of the Argentinian government is that same General Pedro Ramirez. ^{TP} The dispatch from Uruguay reports that Ramirez issued a decree this afternoon, a decree setting forth the attitude of the Ramirez government toward the rest of the world. Correspondents were first authorized to release it, then ordered to hold it up, the explanation being that there might be some changes in the wording. *All of which* ~~At any rate, that~~ indicates how strict is the censorship in Buenos Aires, when it can reach all the way across the frontier ~~Uruguay~~ into Uruguay. But Ramirez did not forbid the publication of two stern decrees in which he announced there would be the most severe punishment for the dissemination of any

3-Argentina

reports tending to create public confusion. ^{and} That might mean almost anything.

Several weeks ago confidential letters from Buenos Aires held out the promise that a whopping big financial scandal was brewing in the Argentinian capital, a scandal somewhat like the Stavisky affair in France nine years ago. That one, as you may remember, caused the downfall of the Herriot cabinet and had all sorts of political repercussions including riots in the streets of Paris. Some of the people implicated in this Argentinian scandal are reported to have been quite close to ex-president Castillo.

^{But} There is nothing in the last three days' news out of Buenos Aires to indicate that this had anything to do with the overturning of the Castillo government. ~~It will probably be a matter of weeks~~

before we hear the inside history of ^{the revolution} ~~the last three days~~ in Argentina.

~~Buenos Aires.~~

There were reports that an army opposed to Ramirez was marching on Buenos Aires down the right bank of the La Plata River.

These reports the Ramirez government categorically denied. ^{S.} General

4-Argentina

Rawson before he resigned issued a decree proclaiming this
a public holiday. President Ramirez cancelled ^{this} and forbade
all meetings, either public or private, without special
permit. ~~Incidentally the new chief of police in Buenos Aires~~
~~is a colonel also named Ramirez.~~

ADD ARGENTINA

The sudden exit of General Rawson led to wild conjectures. But apparently it was a peaceful exit. Rawson signed a communique announcing to the nation and armed forces that he had accomplished his purpose when he brought about a change in the government of Argentina. Rawson went on to say that he had found it impossible to agree with General Ramirez about the cabinet. He had therefore put in the hands of Ramirez his undecidable resignation as president of the provisional government.

That still leaves us in the dark as to whether the Ramirez government will or will not be as much in favor of the Axis powers as Castillo was.

A later decree announced that the dissemination of false or tendentious rumors would be treated as treason.

ah, Here at last is the announcement of the attitude of the Ramirez government:—It will continue the traditional Argentinian policy of friendship and loyal cooperation with the American nations in accordance with existing agreements. So says Ramirez. In respect to the rest of the world, he

2-Add Argentina

adds, he will continue the neutrality that existed under the Castillo government. Ramirez further says that his government will not tolerate any foreign interference. Then he uses these words: "The Argentine people maintain and will continue to maintain through all vicissitudes, a republican form of government in conformance with their own constitution."

Coal Producers Association has just announced that it has ~~just about~~ ^{virtually} come to an agreement with the union.

The Central Pennsylvania mine owners, who employ sixty-five thousand ~~coal diggers~~ ^{men,} have withdrawn from the larger employing group -- and are making a settlement independently.

ZOOTERS

The zoot suit battle in Los Angeles is continuing, with gangster-jitterbugs still assailing soldiers and sailors. Several service men were waylaid during the day, by zoot-suiters armed with knives and clubs. Three sailors were sent to the hospital.

One gang of hoodlums dressed in the baggy pants and long coats of ^{the crew} jitterbug attacked street cars in which sailors were riding to their ships in the harbor. They stoned the cars, and passengers were injured. A navy nurse was cut by flying glass.

The worst outrage was the running down of a Los Angeles policeman by a jitterbug automobile. Patrolman C. D. Smedley saw a man lying in the middle of the street, and went to help him. As he stepped from the curb, a nearby car made a dash, ran him down, and broke his back. The man lying in the street, whom the policeman had gone to help, jumped to his feet and

legged it away as fast as he could. He was a decoy, and the whole thing was a trap. "They were all Mexicans," says the badly injured policeman.

The international angle of the zoot suit outbreak was stressed today by the Mexican Consul, who issued an appeal to all Mexicans in Los Angeles, asking them to stay indoors after dark. The Consul is Alfredo Calles, son of Mexico's former President. He had circulars distributed ~~xxx~~ throughout the Mexican district, circulars that said: "Stay at home during these days of unrest."

~~A conference was scheduled at San Francisco late this afternoon between Attorney General Kenney of ~~xxx~~ California and Governor Earle Warren. They will discuss measures to curb the violence of the frenzied zoot-suiters.~~

Disturbances have spread from Los Angeles to adjacent cities. At San Diego the police were ordered on the alert when the word came that automobile loads

out the funny-looking thugs that have been attacking them. ~~The zoot suit gangs, which ordinarily fight with each other, have banded against the uniformed men of the Fleet.~~

The police ^{are} break ^{ing} up groups of sailors and seizing the queerly costumed loafers -- often just in time to save them from the ^{irate men of the Fleet. A} ~~sailors~~ number of zoot-suiters have come in to be locked up for safety's sake.

The vicious jitterbug situation in Los Angeles has been developing for a couple of years. When the vogue of the zoot suit began, rowdy gangs, consisting of Mexicans and negro^s mostly, adopted the foolish garb almost as a uniform. The zoot suits appeared to intoxicate them, and they went on a rampage of increasingly rowdy disturbances. First they threw rocks and then graduated to clubs and knives. There were several killed. Jitterbug girls joined the zoot suit gangs as auxiliaries,

the female adicts of swing being just as tough as the male. One outfit calls itself -- the Black Widows, and a jitterbug girl, in order to join, must have qualifications of immorality and crime -- like theft and arson.

The zoot suiters, after a mounting career of rafish disturbance among themselves, turned their attention to ~~the~~ sailors ^{and soldiers,} attacking and robbing them.

Los Angeles is an important Naval harbor, with warships and plenty of sailors. And the Bluejackets are not of a temper to be pushed around by the zoot suit freaks, So the present situation developed -- a state of war between Uncle Sam's uniform and the nutty costume of the jitterbug. Considering that there is a war ^{on,} and that the service men are fighting it, and dying too -- the whole thing would seem to be in the realm of near insanity.

Let's finish the subject with an appropriate incident. In a Los Angeles a bunch of sailors ~~they~~ attacked a gang of zoot suiters, and kicked them right in their rear seats. They chased one jitterbug into a crowded theatre, ran him down the aisle and right onto the stage. The sailors, jumping onto the stage, grabbed him, and ripped his baggy pants from him, leaving the jitterbug in a most embarrassing state. The audience applauded, cheered, and howled with laughter.

BOOK

Here's a bit of news for ~~the~~ people who keep library books too long, books overdue, fines to be paid. Today the Detroit Public Library announces the return of a book one hundred and fourteen years overdue. Way back in Eighteen Twenty-nine somebody borrowed a philosophic volume by the great ^{French writer and} Ecclesiastic ~~French~~ ~~writer~~ Fenelon; the book was not returned, and was listed as missing.

One hundred and fourteen years went by, and now the volume comes back -- anonymously. ~~It is~~ ^{was} an unknown person ~~who~~ sent it, without giving his name. Maybe he was afraid -- and with some reason. The fine on the book, ~~now~~ at three cents a day, would come to more than a thousand dollars.

Phew! Huh!